

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Thus, claims 1-12 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed April 6, 2004, the Examiner objected to claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended responsive to this objection. If any additional amendment is necessary to overcome this objection, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,574,876 to Uchiyama et al. (Uchiyama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,401,176 to Fadavi-Ardekani et al. (Fadavi-Ardekani). The Applicant hereby traverses the rejection, as follows.

The invention now set forth in amended claim 1 is a synchronous DRAM which includes a plurality of mode storage units disposed to correspond to each of said logical memory blocks respectively, for storing control information for defining operation modes of said logical memory blocks.

In contrast, Uchiyama is directed to a synchronous dynamic memory having a plurality of memory banks and a mode register for determining an operation mode, which is described as prior art in the present application. The synchronous dynamic memory of Uchiyama does not include a plurality of mode storage units disposed corresponding to each of the logical memory blocks, each of the mode registers storing the control information.

Applicants submit that neither Uchiyama nor Fadavi-Ardekani describes or suggests at least the limitation of "a plurality of mode storage units disposed to correspond to each of said logical memory blocks respectively, for storing control information for defining operation modes of said logical memory blocks," as claimed in claim 1, as amended.

For at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the cited prior art. As claim 1, is allowable, Applicants submit that claims 2-12, which depend from allowable claim 1, are likewise allowable over the cited prior art.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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